

## **5.1 Introduction**

To accomplish the mission and the goals of this plan, which are presented in Chapter 1, a stormwater management program has been designed to provide comprehensive planning, uniform standards, and consistent levels of service throughout the county. The establishment of this countywide framework is important for several reasons:

- Local actions can have impacts throughout an entire watershed.
- There are economies of scale associated with coordinated countywide efforts such as watershed planning, public education and technical training.
- Federal and state funding agencies have emphasized the importance of watershed approaches.
- As the agency with responsibility for countywide stormwater management, the District is in a position to demonstrate that projects for which funding is being sought are appropriate and have been coordinated at the watershed level.

This chapter outlines the framework for the countywide stormwater management program for Cook County. The program includes these functional areas:

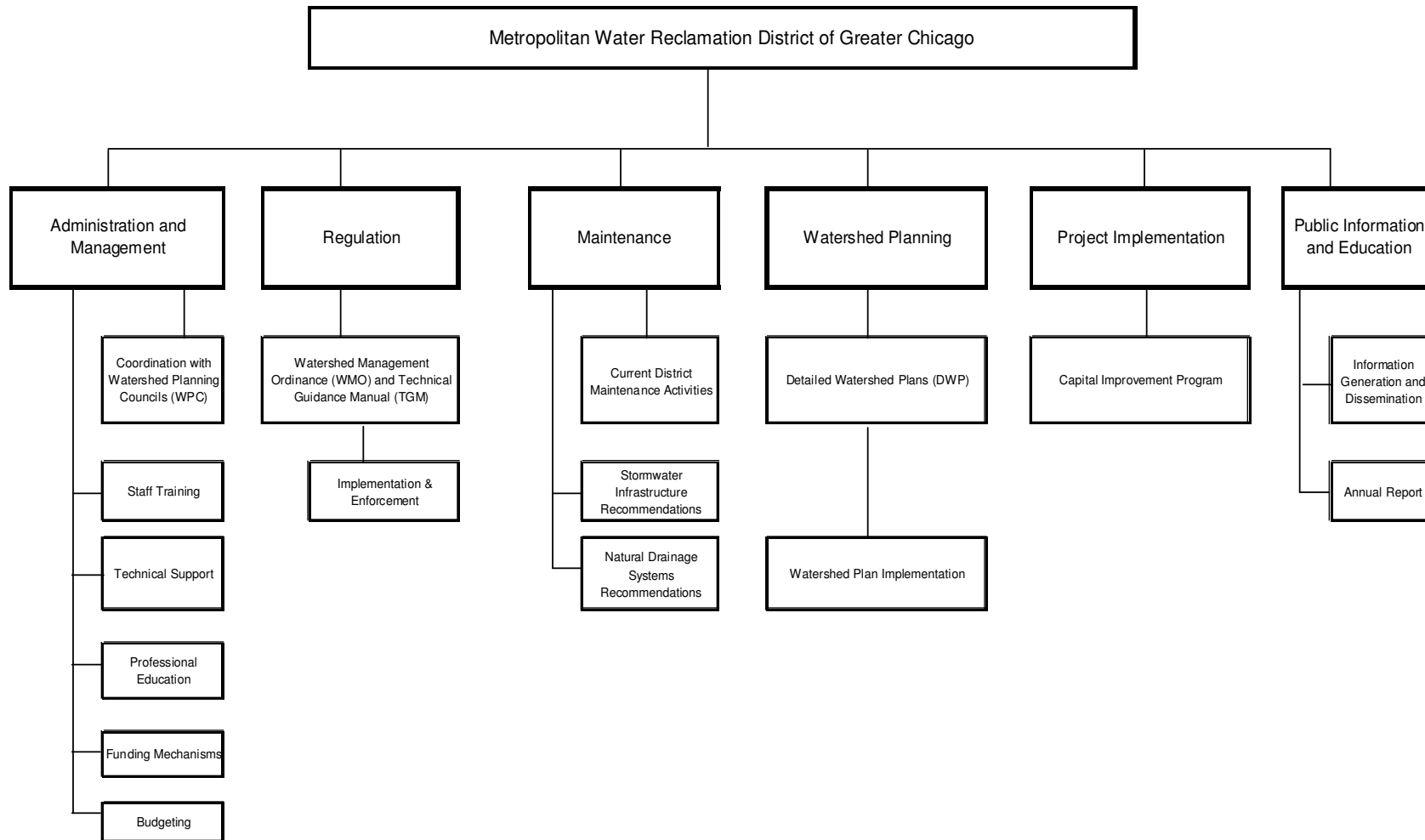
- Administration and Management
- Regulation
- Maintenance
- Watershed Planning
- Project Implementation
- Public Information and Education

Exhibit 5-1 presents the countywide stormwater management program framework. The program areas are discussed in the following sections.

## **5.2 Administration and Management**

Several administration and management functions will support the countywide stormwater management program framework. The administration and management functions will provide countywide coordination of the stormwater management program, identify funding mechanisms for stormwater activities, and develop and maintain a program budget.

Exhibit 5-1 Countywide Stormwater Management Program Framework



---

### **5.2.1 Coordination with Watershed Planning Councils**

The District will coordinate with the Watershed Planning Councils (WPCs) as the stormwater management program is developed. The WPCs will advise the District on regulatory, maintenance, and watershed planning issues as they relate to their respective watersheds. The District has the authority to provide cooperating organizations and agencies with funding for assistance in the stormwater program. The District currently provides funding to the municipal conferences for their roles in the coordination of the WPCs. Further discussion on the WPCs and municipal conferences can be found in Chapter 1.

### **5.2.2 Assign and Train Staff**

The District will assign sufficient staff to manage the countywide stormwater management program and to implement the elements of the Cook County Stormwater Management Plan (CCSMP). Adequate resources will be allocated to provide for periodic training and participation in regional stormwater management forums to ensure the District's staff remains current on the latest technologies and practices.

### **5.2.3 Provide Technical Support**

The District will provide important technical support to municipalities, townships, and developers, as well as to individual citizens. Technical assistance will be offered in such areas as ordinance review and implementation, and waterway/stormwater facility maintenance and management. It will be vital that the District have knowledgeable staff well trained in all areas of stormwater management to serve in this role.

### **5.2.4 Funding Mechanisms**

This program element includes developing funding mechanisms to support the stormwater management program activities, developing an annual program budget, and implementing the capital program. The enacting legislation charging the District with the responsibility of stormwater management for Cook County, Public Act 93-1049, gives the District the authority to levy a tax and to issue bonds for the development and administration of countywide stormwater management. Although the District's authority for the program applies to all of Cook County, the tax levy is only applicable to commercial and private property located within the District's corporate limits. The District's stormwater management program is currently funded by the stormwater tax levy. The District will utilize the stormwater tax levy and additional funding mechanisms to finance the countywide program. Some specific activities and potential funding mechanisms are described below:

#### Countywide activities:

- Stormwater tax levy and fees
- Permit application fees (for permit review and enforcement)
- Project cost-sharing with federal and state agencies
- Project cost-sharing with municipalities and townships
- Grants from state and federal agencies

#### Watershed projects:

- Stormwater tax levy and fees
- Project cost-sharing with federal and state agencies
- Project cost-sharing with municipalities and townships

- 
- Grants from state and federal agencies
  - Bond issues

Developing adequate funding of the stormwater management program is a high priority. While grants may be used to supplement the program, other sources of funding will establish a consistent level of service and allow for long-term planning and implementation of the program. Some of the identified funding alternatives are discussed below:

**Stormwater Taxing Authority** - The District has the authority to levy a tax for the development and implementation of the stormwater management program within the District's corporate limits.

**Stormwater Fees** - The District has the authority to impose fees in areas outside the District's corporate boundaries, but within Cook County.

**Permit Application and Review Fees** - Once the Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) is adopted, permit review and inspection will be funded through permit application and permit review fees. This is consistent with the way many communities fund permit review and enforcement activities. Fees will be established based on such factors as the type and complexity of permit and the area of development or disturbance. The fees will offset expected staff time to review permits, make routine site inspections and other enforcement activities.

**Project Cost-Sharing with Federal and State Agencies** - The District will work in cooperation with federal and state agencies to cost-share on stormwater management projects. In some cases, the District will pursue federal and state cost-share funds. In other cases, the District will serve as the local sponsor, or local match, for federal or state sponsored projects.

**Project Cost-Sharing with Municipalities and Townships** - The District will work in cooperation with municipalities and townships to cost-share on stormwater management projects. In some cases, the District will take the lead on the engineering and/or construction of local stormwater management projects. In other cases, the District will provide funding towards engineering and/or construction of local stormwater management projects to be led by a municipality or township.

**Bond Issue** - The District has the authority to issue bonds for funding stormwater management projects.

**Grants and Other Outside Funding** -The District will pursue grants and other outside sources to fund stormwater activities and projects. Grants will be a valuable supplement to enhance the activities of an ongoing program and to fund larger capital projects.

---

### 5.2.5 Budgeting

The stormwater management program budget is developed on an annual basis as part of the District's overall budget. As the District's countywide stormwater management program evolves, so will the elements of the program's budget.

The stormwater management program budget is used to finance the following:

- Administrative costs – includes employee salaries and training
- Planning – includes watershed plans, development of the countywide regulatory ordinance, and implementation of a geographic information system
- Maintenance – includes the Small Stream Maintenance Program (SSMP) and District's stormwater maintenance responsibilities which predated the enactment of Public Act 93-1049. The SSMP is further discussed in Section 5.4.
- Capital Improvement Projects

The allocation of stormwater management funds will change from year to year as the program grows and priorities shift. However, it is anticipated that a majority of the funding will be allocated to capital projects as the Detailed Watershed Plans (DWPs) are completed.

## 5.3 Regulation

Effective stormwater management requires a regulatory framework to support its program goals. Chapter 2 describes the existing framework for stormwater management in Cook County and the governmental resources available to implement the CCSMP. Given this framework, this section focuses on the procedures needed to develop and implement the regulatory program.

Most comprehensive regulatory programs make use of two primary types of regulatory controls: land use restrictions and design standards. The CCSMP has been developed utilizing combinations of both types.

Land use restrictions are generally used to protect sensitive landscape features such as floodplains and wetlands. The restrictions are intended to preserve the natural functions of these areas, such as stormwater storage and flow control, as well as to prevent damages to property should building occur in these areas. Design standards are primarily used to control the rate and volume of stormwater runoff and are intended to minimize the impact of development on downstream areas.

In the countywide stormwater management program, the stormwater goals from the CCSMP that require an action or response, such as establishing uniform, minimum, countywide stormwater management regulations, will be mandated by ordinance.

Developing a countywide regulatory program involves drafting and adopting a countywide ordinance which sets standards that apply to both incorporated and

---

unincorporated areas, preparing a technical manual to support the ordinance, instituting a structure to enforce the ordinance, and establishing a means of funding the program. Stormwater management concepts that will be considered in the development of the regulatory program are outlined in Chapter 7 and the components of the program are described below.

### **5.3.1 Prepare and Adopt a Watershed Management Ordinance**

To provide a consistent level of protection throughout the county, a program for uniform countywide regulation and enforcement will be developed. A WMO will be developed for countywide use. It is anticipated that the WMO will specify standards for stormwater drainage and detention, floodplain management, soil erosion and sediment control, and stream and wetland protection in a single document. The District will seek input from the WPCs along with various agencies and stakeholders as the WMO is developed. In addition, the District will review the model ordinances drafted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning as well as the ordinances currently being enforced in neighboring counties.

### **5.3.2 Prepare Technical Guidance Manual**

In support of the WMO, a Technical Guidance Manual (TGM) will be developed to provide guidance in meeting the ordinance. The TGM will include guidance on intent and interpretation of the ordinance as well as guidance on design methodologies and procedures. The TGM and the WMO may be updated from time to time as new information becomes available and as experience is gained in implementing the ordinance.

### **5.3.3 Institute Ordinance Implementation and Enforcement Structure**

The WMO and TGM will be applicable for all of Cook County, including unincorporated areas and areas outside of the District's corporate limits. Municipalities will have the ability enact regulations which are more stringent than the WMO.

In implementing the WMO, the District will maintain responsibility for all permit and enforcement activities, and it will consider developing a mechanism for delegating that responsibility to interested municipalities. Interested municipalities that adopt requirements at least as stringent as the WMO, and have demonstrated qualifications, may receive certification from the District to implement the WMO, in whole or in part, including the responsibility for permit review and enforcement within their jurisdiction. The District would review permits and constructed facilities periodically and retain the authority to retract certification where enforcement problems exist.

This approach utilizes local knowledge and access to development sites combined with the District's responsibility to ensure that watershed perspectives are considered, to provide technical assistance, and to enforce the WMO consistently throughout the county. The District will be responsible for permit review and enforcement in those municipalities not desiring or qualifying for certification. The Cook County Highway Department may wish to continue to be responsible for permit review and enforcement in unincorporated Cook County.

For certain wetlands and floodplain modifications, permit applications are currently reviewed and enforced by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the

---

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR), respectively. The District will continue to utilize the services of the USACE and IDNR-OWR for reviewing such modifications, however the District may develop arrangements with the USACE and the IDNR-OWR to coordinate and expedite reviews of the permits by undertaking some of the tasks of the review process. At the time of ordinance adoption, the specific wetland and floodplain activities that can be delegated to the municipalities will be established.

Although reviews of many permits may be delegated to the municipal level, there may be provisions for pre-application meetings involving developers and both municipal and District staff, particularly for larger developments. This will provide the necessary degree of watershed review and regional perspective as well as take advantage of the technical expertise of the District's stormwater staff. The District may maintain a database of all stormwater management permits issued within Cook County. This resource will be accessible for pre-application meetings and will streamline incorporation of development data into the watershed planning process.

#### **5.3.4 Applicability to Dual-County Communities**

A number of Cook County municipalities have corporate boundaries in Cook County and in adjacent counties and are considered to be dual-county communities. Cook County shares boundaries with Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage and Will Counties in Illinois. These five counties have established countywide stormwater management programs and have adopted countywide stormwater management regulatory ordinances. As the WMO is developed, consideration will be given to determine the most appropriate approach to address regulations within the dual-county communities. If a dual-county community has adopted an adjoining county's stormwater ordinance that is enforced through the entire municipality, and if that ordinance is at least as restrictive as the WMO, the existing ordinance may be allowed to stay in place in the Cook County portion of the community. The District will request advice on this issue from the WPCs during the WMO development process.

#### **5.3.5 Coordinate Professional Education**

To achieve the goals of this plan as well as the regulatory standards of the future WMO, training will be needed for site planners, design engineers, and landscape architects in site design to minimize stormwater-related impacts. Training will be provided by the District and may be coordinated with professional organizations in the region. In addition, the District will solicit input from and work with existing countywide stormwater programs to assist in achieving the goals of this plan.

#### **5.3.6 Fund Regulatory Activities**

Permit review and enforcement activities will be funded through permit application and review fees. Should a system for delegating certain permit review responsibilities be implemented, one way to fund municipalities' permit review activities would be to have certified municipalities receive permit fees, in an amount to be determined by the District, for activities within their jurisdiction. A percentage of each permit application fee could be used to fund the District's oversight role, including pre-application meetings and periodic delegation reviews. The District would retain the full permit fee for those developments that it reviews. Since the WMO and the TGM will apply countywide and must be prepared in advance of enforcement, preparation of these documents will be

---

financed through the stormwater tax levy which supports the District's stormwater management program.

## **5.4 Maintenance**

Maintenance of a stormwater management system is an important way to reduce damage that can occur during storm events and to preserve and enhance natural drainage systems. Newly constructed stormwater facilities must be maintained so they function as designed. Natural drainage systems need to be maintained to prevent excess debris accumulation and erosion, ensuring that they provide adequate conveyance and support a full range of natural functions.

Stormwater infrastructure includes structures such as reservoirs, detention basins, storm sewers and catch basins. Natural drainage systems include rivers, streams and channels. While some streams have been modified, they are considered part of the natural system of conveying flows through a watershed.

### **5.4.1 Current Maintenance Activities**

The District periodically inspects 32 flood control facilities located within Cook County. In addition, the District shares responsibilities for the maintenance of some of these flood control facilities with communities, park districts and other agencies. The District also maintains certain reaches of waterways and streams located in Cook County. The District will continue to conduct these maintenance activities for the aforementioned flood control facilities, waterways, and streams as part of the countywide stormwater management program.

### **5.4.2 Maintenance for Stormwater Infrastructure**

The District will work with the WPCs to ensure that infrastructure within the watersheds is maintained. The District will assist with the training of recommended maintenance procedures for municipalities, townships, and drainage districts. A variety of methods may be employed to carry out maintenance activities including working with public works staff, homeowner associations and park districts. Emphasis will be placed on maintenance being provided by the owner of the stormwater facility or by the parties that benefit from the stormwater facility.

Appropriate maintenance and inspection recommendations will be developed by the District for existing and new stormwater infrastructure. As an example, the recommendations could include a checklist of maintenance activities.

Planning for maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, such as identification of responsible parties and the development of preventative maintenance schedules, will be required for all new developments or redevelopments. In addition, provisions for accessibility and ease of maintenance will be required in all design plans.

### **5.4.3 Maintenance for Natural Drainage Systems**

Maintenance of natural drainage systems is needed to counteract the impacts of increased runoff due to development, erosion, debris accumulation, and the growth of invasive plants that can reduce the stream's capacity.



#### **5.4.4 Debris Clearing**

Stream maintenance must address excessive accumulation of debris. Significant debris accumulation can increase flood heights, cause further erosion, and interfere with the operation of some flood control facilities.

Appropriate maintenance practices will be considered by the District and coordinated with the WPCs to foster consistent levels of service throughout watersheds and throughout the county. Appropriate management practices include regular inspections, reestablishing and maintaining plant communities, and establishing and protecting buffer zones.

#### **5.4.5 Small Stream Maintenance Program**

The District's Maintenance and Operations Department has implemented a SSMP to provide stream cleaning services within the District's corporate boundaries. The services of the SSMP are limited to removing debris and fallen trees within the streams that impede the flow of water. Projects involving sediment removal and streambank improvement or stabilization will be considered under the District's Capital Improvement Program described in Chapter 6 and will not be addressed under the SSMP. Further information on the SSMP can be found on the District's website, [www.mwrd.org](http://www.mwrd.org).

Mechanisms for implementing natural drainage system maintenance activities will be developed in coordination with the WPCs. The District, municipalities, townships, and drainage districts are the most likely entities to perform stream maintenance within their jurisdictions. Due to its inter-jurisdictional nature, stream maintenance may be coordinated by the District.

### **5.5 Watershed Planning**

Planning will be carried out by the District both at the countywide level and at the watershed level. DWPs will be developed throughout the county in coordination with the WPCs. DWPs will be developed according to the methodology presented in Chapter 6 of the CCSMP. When DWPs are developed, the District will facilitate preventative and remedial projects to benefit both upstream and downstream interests. Projects will be identified during the DWP process and will be prioritized on a countywide basis. Funding decisions will be made based on the minimum criteria presented in Chapter 1, the prioritization process described in Chapter 6, and the decisions of the District's Board of Commissioners.

#### **5.5.1 Watershed Planning and Coordination Activities**

Watershed planning will be coordinated with floodplain and wetland mapping initiatives, with other planning efforts in the county, and with efforts in other counties. Below is a list of existing programs and activities of other agencies which are related to watershed planning:

##### **5.5.1.1 Cook County Planning Activities**

---

The District will coordinate with other county planning activities. For example, transportation systems can have a significant impact on the drainage system and natural resources; but with coordinated planning efforts, flooding concerns can be addressed.

Other examples of this coordination range from working with the Cook County Bureau of Information Technology and Automation in order to share map information, to identifying opportunities for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) to acquire areas of regional stormwater significance as part of its open space acquisition program.

The District will share any needed hydrologic data and flood information with Cook County agencies to support their efforts.

#### **5.5.1.2 Water Resources Agencies**

Planning mechanisms will be developed to provide improved coordination and information dissemination between the District, the county, state and federal agencies, similar to past efforts with the Flood Control Coordination Committee (FCCC). The FCCC met regularly from the 1970's through 2000 to discuss current and planned flood control and watershed management efforts. The FCCC agenda included the identification of areas of flood concerns and discussions of potential cost sharing efforts. Various agencies were members of the FCCC including the District, IDNR-OWR, Cook County Highway Department (CCHD), and the USACE. The FCCC was reestablished in 2006 and will meet on a semi-annual basis.

#### **5.5.1.3 Active Drainage Districts**

Active drainage districts have the potential to perform many functions consistent with the implementation of this plan. For example, drainage districts can levy assessments for stream maintenance and restoration activities. Drainage districts may also be able to help address existing and future drainage problems, so the District will encourage their participation in watershed planning efforts.

In accordance with the Act, “[a] drainage district that continues to exist within Cook County shall conform its operations to the county wide stormwater management plan.” The District has the authority, upon the creation and implementation of the Cook County Stormwater Management Plan (CCSMP), to petition the circuit court to dissolve any drainage district located entirely within the District (70 ILCS 2605/7h(h)). For drainage districts located partially within the District corporate boundaries, the District may petition the circuit court to disconnect the portion of the drainage district that lies within the District boundaries.

#### **5.5.1.4 Community Rating System**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to provide incentives to communities to reduce the potential for flood damages. Using flood insurance premium adjustments, the program encourages community and state activities beyond those required by the NFIP. The CRS has three goals: to reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance ratings, and promote the awareness of flood insurance.

---

Involvement in the CRS program is voluntary and any community participating in the NFIP may apply for CRS classification. CRS credit is given to communities for activities such as:

- public information
- improved floodplain mapping
- improved standards for floodplain and stormwater management
- stream maintenance activities
- flood damage reduction activities
- flood preparedness activities

Many of the activities and standards in this plan will help NFIP-participating communities in Cook County to receive CRS credit. The District will assist municipalities in identifying CRS credits that will be available as a result of the countywide stormwater management program.

#### **5.5.1.5 Hydrologic Data Collection**

Hydrologic data will be collected for use in watershed modeling. The District will share data with various agencies as needed. As required for calibration of watershed models or for operation of stormwater management facilities, the District will coordinate the identification of precipitation and streamflow gauge locations, and the installation and operation of gauges with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), IDNR-OWR and Illinois Department of Natural Resources – State Water Survey (IDNR-SWS).

#### **5.5.1.6 Surrounding Counties**

Cook County watersheds extend beyond the county boundaries in both the upstream and downstream directions. The District will coordinate with surrounding Illinois counties and Lake County, Indiana, to identify their concerns related to the stormwater management program for Cook County. DWPs and any proposed regulatory ordinances will be circulated among the surrounding counties for review and comment.

#### **5.5.1.7 Floodplain Mapping**

Many of the floodplains delineated on the FEMA floodplain maps are based on analyses and watershed conditions of the 1980s. Despite FEMA's current conversion of Cook County floodplain maps to Geographical Information System (GIS)-based digital maps, many of the maps are out-of-date due to changes in land use, changes in channel conditions, and out-of-date information on rainfall frequencies. As DWPs are developed, remapping opportunities will be identified and brought to the attention of FEMA and IDNR-OWR.

#### **5.5.1.8 Wetland Mapping**

The current National Wetland Inventory (NWI) is generally out of date in Cook County. To augment the NWI, Advanced Identification of Wetlands (ADID) studies have been prepared for other northeastern Illinois counties. These studies have been comprehensive in identifying the location and boundary of existing wetlands, evaluating the functions provided by the wetlands, identifying exceptional quality wetlands, and developing wetland protection and public education strategies. An ADID study could benefit Cook County by providing up-to-date mapping of wetlands. In addition, the ADID functional evaluations can be invaluable in making permit decisions at the local level and

---

federal (USACE) level. For these reasons, the District intends to request that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 5 initiate an ADID study in Cook County.

### **5.5.2 Prepare Detailed Watershed Plans**

DWPs will be prepared to assess the specific conditions and needs of each watershed. DWPs will be prepared by the District to ensure consistency in planning and evaluation. The methodology for the development of DWPs is presented in Chapter 6.

### **5.5.3 Implement Watershed Plans**

As DWPs are developed, the District will coordinate with the WPCs to implement the recommendations. DWP recommendations may include capital improvement projects and maintenance activities.

## **5.6 Project Implementation**

Capital improvement projects will be identified in the DWPs, or through the District's Phase II program via outreach to municipalities, townships and agencies having jurisdiction in Cook County to identify partnership opportunities on stormwater management projects. Further information related to the identification of Phase II Stormwater Management projects is provided below in this section. Funding for capital improvement projects will be prioritized on a countywide basis. Implementation of the capital improvement program will be addressed annually and will depend on budget constraints, priorities, and the availability of funding from outside agencies. The capital program is expected to grow as the DWPs are developed, the Phase II program is implemented, and funding mechanisms are identified.

### **5.6.1 Phase II Project Identification**

Under the Stormwater Management Phase II program, the District collects information from stakeholders, including but not limited to, municipalities, townships, and regional agencies in Cook County to identify local stormwater problems along with potential projects to address them. Stakeholders may provide a list of all flooding concerns, applicable current studies, and potential projects including their status (i.e. conceptual, engineering study being developed, or construction plans ready).

The District categorizes the problem areas reported by the municipalities, townships, and agencies as structure flooding, roadway flooding, erosion, basement backups, isolated nuisance flooding, or maintenance. The types of local stormwater management projects to be considered for potential District assistance under the Phase II program may include green infrastructure, detention storage, upsizing critical storm sewers and culverts, pump stations, and establishing drainage ways.

Projects are prioritized for assistance by the District based on a variety of factors including the number and type of structures benefitted by the identified solution, the cost for implementing the solution including engineering and construction related costs, the benefit-to-cost (BC) analysis of the solution, and the severity of the problem. Projects unrelated to stormwater management, projects involving maintenance or replacement of flood damaged facilities or property, or isolated nuisance flooding, will not be considered

---

for District assistance. Also excluded from consideration for District assistance are projects which are specifically intended to provide improved infrastructure for planned or future development, upsizing of local storm sewer systems in their entirety, and those that address issues associated with deficient private and public sanitary sewer systems.

The enacting legislation, Public Act 93-1049, in which authority was granted to the District for the responsibilities of stormwater management for Cook County, stipulates that BC analysis is required during deliberations for capital project selection. However, the District's Board of Commissioners is not required to select projects solely on BC analysis. The Board of Commissioners may also consider noneconomic criteria in the selection of alternatives for each problem area. The ultimate decision for funding of any capital project is at the discretion of the District's Board of Commissioners. Assistance from the District may be in the form of funding, engineering, or other assistance to be defined through the negotiations between the District and the involved entities.

### **5.6.2 Acquisition of Flood Prone Properties**

As stated in P.A. 98-0652, "The District may acquire, by purchase from a willing seller in a voluntary transaction, real property in furtherance of its regional and local stormwater management activities." The District will set up a program for acquiring flood prone and flood damaged property which will consider factors such as the severity and frequency of flooding and/or whether or not any viable alternatives to acquisition are feasible. The District will establish guidance for the property acquisition process. Upon acquisition of the flood prone property, any existing buildings or other structures will be demolished and property interests will be conveyed to an appropriate jurisdiction with a deed restriction prohibiting future residential, commercial, and industrial development on the property.

## **5.7 Public Information and Education**

A number of Cook County municipalities have public information programs related to stormwater management. Most of these efforts relate to floodplain and water quality issues. There is currently no countywide public information program for stormwater management.

A public information program will be developed as part of the countywide stormwater management program to inform and educate the public on the importance of watershed management. Public involvement is important because the cumulative actions of individuals can have significant watershed impacts. The public information program will communicate the essential stormwater management topics, and it will be based on the target audience and the most effective ways the information can be delivered.

### **5.7.1 Identify Public Information Topics**

A broad range of stormwater management related topics can be included in an information and education program. The following topics have been identified for possible inclusion in the countywide stormwater management program public information effort:

- Stormwater management and the role of a watershed

- Importance of wetlands for mitigating the impacts of stormwater
- Importance of stream maintenance
- Floodplain management issues and flood-proofing ideas for property owners
- Water quality issues, such as lawn maintenance, proper use of household chemicals, and septic systems

### **5.7.2 Public Education Audiences**

Although it is important to reach all citizens, key citizens' groups will be targeted. These groups include those that live next to water bodies and homeowners associations responsible for maintenance and management of water bodies and components of the stormwater management system, such as detention basins. Information materials may be developed with the WPCs, municipalities, townships, developers and business owners as target audiences. The public information program will be coordinated with other county agencies such as the FPDCC, schools and interest groups.

### **5.7.3 Public Information Generation and Dissemination**

Based on the selection of stormwater management topics, the audience and the manner in which the message should be delivered, public information materials will be developed. The countywide stormwater management program public information effort will optimize current resources and methods used by federal, state and local agencies. For many topics, materials have already been developed by other agencies. These materials will be used or tailored to the needs of the countywide effort.

Public information materials will be disseminated in numerous ways to target audiences, including websites, flyers, brochures, workshops, and newsletters. Materials may be delivered to audiences through the District, WPCs, FPDCC, and municipalities.

### **5.7.4 Annual Report**

The District will prepare an annual report on the countywide stormwater management program. The report will summarize the status of the implementation of the CCSMP. The annual report will be available to the public on the District's website ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)).

## **5.8 Summary**

The countywide stormwater management program framework is based on the development of administration and management, regulation, maintenance, watershed planning, project implementation, and public information and education program elements. The efforts of the District in these areas will be coordinated with the WPCs. Exhibit 5-1 presents the countywide stormwater management program framework. The implementation of the countywide stormwater management program is discussed in Chapter 8.